

**Q.** You said ground forces. Could I ask you, sir, if you fear that using U.S. air strikes might draw the United States into a ground war there?

**The President.** I just don't want to discuss our evaluation of the options anymore. I've told you that there's never been a serious discussion in this country about the introduction of ground forces into an ongoing conflict there.

### **Gay Rights**

**Q.** With hundreds of thousands of gays in Washington this weekend for the march, did you ever reconsider your decision to leave town for this weekend? Did you ever consider in any way participating in some of the activities?

**The President.** No.

**Q.** Why not?

**The President.** Because I—and, basically, I wouldn't participate in other marches. I think once you become President, on balance, except under unusual circumstances, that is not what should be done. But more importantly, I'm going to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, a trip that presumably most of you would want me to make, to try to focus anew on what I think are the fundamental issues at stake for our country right now. And I expect that I will say something about the fact that a lot of Americans have come here, asking for a climate that is free of discrimination, asking, basically, to be able to work hard and live by the rules and be treated like other American citizens if they do that, and just that. And that's always been my position, not only for the gays who will be here but for others as well.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's 13th news conference began at 1 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Elie Wiesel, Nobel laureate and concentration camp survivor; Dante Caputo, U.N./OAS Special Envoy to Haiti; Lawrence Pezzullo, Special Assistant to the Secretary of State on Haiti; and Adm. Frank B. Kelso II, USN, Chief of Naval Operations.

### **Statement on Advancing U.S. Relations With Russia and the Other New Independent States**

*April 23, 1993*

Since my summit in Vancouver with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, I have pursued a number of measures to implement our policy of economic and strategic partnership between our two countries. These reflect my conviction that the movement toward political and economic reform in Russia and the other new states of the former Soviet Union is the greatest security challenge of our day and can fuel our own future prosperity as well.

It is time to put our relations with Russia and the other states on a new footing. As an important step in that process, we need to update the accumulated cold war vestiges that remain in U.S. laws and practices. Our statutes and regulations are filled with restrictions on a Communist Soviet Union, a nation that no longer exists. Many of those provisions needlessly impede our relations with the democratic states that replaced the Soviet Union.

Many in Congress have already taken the lead on re-examining these provisions. Today, I have asked Ambassador-at-Large Strobe Talbott to coordinate our Executive review of these laws and statutes on an expedited basis, with the goal of revising or removing them where appropriate and consistent with our security and other national interests. Related to this process, our administration will also begin a thorough review, working with our allies, of how to reorient export controls on sensitive technology. I ask the bipartisan leaders in Congress to work with us to coordinate and expedite these reviews.

Today I am also announcing steps to help build a new security partnership with Russia and the other states. We will accelerate the deactivation of nuclear weapons systems already scheduled for elimination under the START I Treaty, while working to accelerate dismantlement in Russia and the three other states with nuclear weapons on their territory. We are beginning a comprehensive review of measures that could enhance strategic stability, including the possibility of each

side reprogramming its nuclear missiles so they are not routinely aimed at each other. And we will be starting a consultative process within the next 2 months with Russia, our allies, and other states, aimed at commencing negotiations toward a multilateral nuclear test ban.

Finally, we are continuing our efforts to strike a partnership with political and economic reformers throughout Russia and the other states. We are continuing work with our G-7 partners to assemble the package of multilateral assistance that Secretaries Bentsen and Christopher recently negotiated in Tokyo. And I am continuing consultation with Congress over the further efforts our own Nation will take to assist Russia's reforms.

The hardest work of reform must be done by the people of Russia and the other states themselves, and we applaud the courageous steps they have taken. Yet we dare not miss opportunities to do what we can to bolster their processes of democratization and economic liberalization. The steps I am announcing today will advance those objectives.

**Proclamation 6548—Nancy Moore  
Thurmond National Organ and  
Tissue Donor Awareness Week, 1993**  
*April 23, 1993*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

**A Proclamation**

On April 14, 1993, the promising life of Nancy Moore Thurmond was taken in an auto accident. In the heartbreaking moments after her death, Nancy's parents, Senator Strom Thurmond and his wife Nancy, made the decision that their daughter's organs should be donated to others. Through this selfless act, the Thurmonds redeemed the promise of Nancy Moore Thurmond's youth and helped to sustain the lives of other human beings. In memory of Nancy, we commit ourselves this week to understanding what the donation of organs can mean.

In the history of medicine, few advances have been more awe-inspiring than successful organ and tissue transplants. In recent

years we have seen the miracle of terminally ill patients receiving a second chance at life with a new heart, liver, lung, or kidney. We have seen children with leukemia regain their health through bone marrow transplants; we have witnessed the restoration of sight to the blind through new corneas; and we have seen thousands of Americans resuming normal lives after receiving a transplanted organ or tissue. But many others still wait, and many die waiting for a suitable organ to become available.

Today there are more than 30,000 patients on the national transplant waiting list, and a new patient is added to the list every 20 minutes. The need for organs far surpasses the number donated each year. We must increase public awareness of the successes of transplantation and the urgent need for increased donation. The American public needs to know that by completing an organ donor card and carrying it, and by making their families aware of their wishes to donate, they may give the gift of life to others.

Americans are a caring and giving people. Many Americans who have lost their loved ones in tragic accidents have found some measure of comfort in knowing that despite their loss, others may live. The Thurmond family can take solace in the knowledge that their beautiful daughter, Nancy Moore Thurmond, gave life to others.

To honor Nancy Moore Thurmond, and to focus public attention on the desperate need for organ donors, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 66, has designated the week beginning April 18, 1993, as "Nancy Moore Thurmond National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of April 18 through April 24, 1993, as Nancy Moore Thurmond National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. I urge all health care professionals, educators, the media, public and private organizations concerned with organ donation and transplantation, and all Americans to join me in supporting this humanitarian action. In the memory of their loved